Knottingley Urban District.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

TO THE

Knottingley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report, as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1898.

The number of deaths occuring in the district is 106, of which 60 were males, and 46 females. In addition, 9 deaths of persons belonging to the district but occuring outside of it, took place, This shows an increase of 16 deaths occuring in the district, and of 6 outside the district, over the Returns of last year. On investigation, this increase is wholly due to the increased Infantile mortality, the number of children dying under the age of one year, being 44 as against 27 last year.

Of the Infantile deaths the causes were as follows :— 10 from convulsions, 6 bronchitis, 5 premature birth, 16 from feeble vitality and wasting diseases, 1 from measles, 2 whooping cough, 2 diarrhœa and 1 overlaid in bed. The greater part of the deaths are thus shown to be due to premature birth and to those children of feeble vitality, and therefore from causes which are difficult to prevent. Only two of the deaths were due to diarrhœa, which considering the great heat during part of last summer, shews an improvement. This improvement is probably due to the new water supply, and that more care has been taken in the feeding of the children by the mothers.

The causes of the deaths at all ages will be seen by referring to Table A. The deaths due to Zymotic diseases are as follows: 4 from scarlet fever, 1 from typhoid, 6 from measles, and 2 from whooping cough.

There were 5 deaths from injuries, viz:—2 children drowned in the river Aire by mis-adventure, 1 man committed suicide by drowning himself in the canal, 1 child suffocated in bed, 1 old woman fell and fractured her thigh.

Of the deaths occuring outside the district, 6 occured in the Workhouse, 1 in the Asylum at Wadsley, and 2 were drowned at sea.

Estimating the population at 5,700 the death-rate for the district is 18·7 per 1000, as compared with 15·9 last year. Taking the deaths occuring outside the district into consideration it is 20·1 per 1000. The Infantile mortality is 183·3 per 1,000, as against 136·6 last year.

The births numbered 240, (119 males and 121 females) giving a Birth-rate of 42·0 which rate is much higher than that of the average Birth-rate of the rest of the country.

The cases of infectious disease notified during 1898, numbered 35, as against 44 last year. They were as follows: 24 of scarlet fever, 5 of typhoid, 6 of erysipelas.

The scarlet-fever cases were a continuation of the outbreak of the preceding year, and lasted from the beginning of the year to July, only one case occuring since in December, so that I think the outbreak has now been stamped out.

Three of the cases of typhoid fever were in children. The fever was imported to Knottingley and was traced to drinking canal water, outside the district. Of the other two cases, one was at Calder Vale and the other on the Bendles. The

case on the Bendles was a very severe one, and ended fatally. The water supply to the property had been analysed and condemned, but owing to there being no mains laid down the Bendles, it had not been possible for a proper supply to be put in.

The zymotic Death-rate is 2·4 per 1000, as against 1·6 last year. The increased zymotic death-rate is due to a severe outbreak of measles which followed after the scarlet fever and which caused 6 deaths, and this outbreak of measles was in turn followed by one of whooping cough. Owing to the measles the National Schools had to be closed from the 10th of June to the 27th of June.

All the properties in the town, with one or two exceptions, have now had their water supply tested. This year 91 samples were examined, out of which 60 were condemned, and steps have been taken to enforce a supply of Roall Water being put in, in those cases where the water was condemned.

The Drainage Scheme is now well under way, and it is to be hoped will soon be an accomplished fact, for though we have now a pure water supply, it is just as important to have proper drainage. In the lower parts of the town, while digging the trenches for the sewer mains, it was very evident that the whole subsoil was impregnated with the leakage from the old drains, and it was no wonder that the water supply of the properties there situated was contaminated.

Vaccination under the new Act is proceeding well in Knottingley. I have only heard of one conscientious objector in the town taking out a certificate, and he came from the same class of the community who were instrumental in bringing smallpox into the town some years ago, and which created such a scare. The new calf matter supplied by the Local Government Board has proved most satisfactory in its results.

The Scavenging is being carried out more satisfactorily, though more might be done by private individuals to keep the privies in a less filthy state if they would only throw the ashes down the seats. By this means the privies would be kept purer and sweeter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS PERCIVAL,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 22nd, 1899.

(A)

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinnuishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.												
At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Scarlatina	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Phthisis	Bronchitis Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Cancer	Injuries	All Other Diseases	Total
106	44	19	9	1	12	21	Under 5	1		6	2	2		12			2	38	63
							5 Upwds.	3	1				7	12	8	1	3	8	43

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality

Deaths occuring outside the district among persons belonging thereto	At all ages 9	Under 5 years of age	6
	25 and under 65 ... 5	Over 5 years of age	
	65 and upwards ... 4		
Deaths occuring within the district among not persons belonging thereto.		Under 5 years of age	
		Over 5 years of age	

(B)

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, in the Knottingley Urban District classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Age under 5 or over 5	New cases of Sickness in each locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.		
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Scarletina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.
KNOTTINGLEY.	5407	5700	240	Under 5	12		
				5 Upw'ds.	12	5	6

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District: Yes since June 24th, 1896.